

"ZANONI JONES " - by -

, Comedy-drama in

three acts. 7 males - 7 females. - One exterior - ~~One interior~~.

Time - 2 hrs.

Zanoni Jones, a popular musical comedy star is spending the summer at a ~~summer~~ resort by the sea; HerMother, who is with her, is elated because a young millionaire is ~~paying~~ ^{Zanoni} paying very marked attention to ^{she is} her. Zanoni is amused and fond of the boy, who is very much younger than ~~her~~, but her real affections go to a ~~young~~ enterprising man of the village who owns a hardware store. This agitates Zanoni's Mother greatly and through her efforts and the force of circumstances these two are separated. How they are eventually brought together again and how the millionaire boy turns out to be a promising young actor rounds out the plot.

Description of Settings.

Acts I. and II. are the exterior of a yacht club on a small island off the coast. A wooden structure, simple clap-boards or shingles that can have rambler-roses growing over it. Flats straight across the back indicate the side of the building with a door center and windows on either side. At each end of flats - stage Right and Left- steps lead up to porches indicated - and through porch the sea is seen at both sides. There is a bench under window at back - and small tables and chairs on lawn in front.

Act III, - this set is very simple.- The plain grey walls of Zanoni's dressing-room at the theatre. At back - Right Center is a door - and along the back wall Left-Center is the long shelf and mirror that comprises the dressing-table. There is a screen at the Right and three or four straight chairs about - and Zanoni's clothes and costumes hanging on the walls.

Description of Characters.

Zanoni Jones - a young woman of about twenty-five or twenty-eight eight who has ~~to~~ had to battle with existence ever since she was a child. This has left her with a ~~to~~ slightly tough veneer over a sincere and straightforward character. She must be attractive with a certain amount of dash.

Ophelia Booth Jones - Zanoni's Mother, of the rougher sort with very little veneer of any sort and with heart and mind only for the advancement of Zanoni.

✓ Charles Stanish Price - a sincere young boy of ~~about~~ twenty or ~~twenty-two~~, - who is untouched by all his ~~w~~ wealth and has a genuine love of the theatre and all it means.

Mrs. J. Standish Price - Charlie's Mother, ~~for~~ ^{due} to the manner born - guarding her wealth and her pride zealously.

✓ Harry Boyd - a ~~guy~~ genuine man of about thirty years, enterprising but content with the small town where he has been born and brought up.

Marguerite Van Der Pool - a girl just out of ~~boarding~~ school with none of the modern sophistication about her and a figure that will probably never conform to modern dimensions. The typical fat and good-hearted girl.

The Bradley~~s~~, Colemans, and Bessie Carrington are the ~~the~~

types found among all summer-colony social sets. Around thirty years old - attractive and well-dressed.

Ziegler - an enterprising Jewish theatrical manager.

Mossop , a care-taker at the Club, - and Mac, an assistant stage-manager behind the scenes of the theatre , - these two can be doubled.

Myrtle the colored maid in Zanoni's dressing-room has no lines

Three or four extra Club members in the first Act (These are not absolutely necessary.)

"ZANONI JONES"

ACT I

CHARACTERS

✓ ZANONI JONES

✓ MRS. OPHELIA BOOTH JONES, her mother

✓ CHARLES STANDISH PRICE

MRS. J. STANDISH PRICE, his mother

✓ HARRY BOYD

JIM BRADLEY

✓ MRS. JIM BRADLEY

✓ BILLY COLEMAN

✓ MRS. BILLY COLEMAN

✓ BESSIE CARRINGTON

MARGUERITE VAN DER POOL

MOSSOP, a caretaker

MAC

ZIEGLER

MYRTLE, (a colored maid, with no lines)

THREE EXTRAS in Act I

TIME: The Present

PLACE: A seaside summer resort

ACT I

TIME: Evening of a summer day.
PLACE: At the Island Yacht Club.
SCENE: Club house across back. Tables on lawn down front, steps and door to dance hall at center Back; windows Right and Left. At end of building R. and L. steps to higher verandah with balustrade. Vines growing over porches, etc. Lights everywhere.

When curtain rises people at ~~three or four~~ ^{Two} tables having light refreshments between dances. ZANONI and her friends are at the table Left Center. There is laughing and talking in general.

MRS. COLEMAN

Billy, pass Miss Jones the ~~sandwiches~~ ^{a cigarette}.

BRADLEY

Miss Jones, won't you have ~~another~~ ^{one of mine}?

~~No thanks.~~ MRS BRADLEY

Miss Jones, what was the name of your leading man last year?

ZANONI

Philip Miller.

MRS. COLEMAN

Oh, Miss Jones, you looked so sweet in that ~~last~~ act dress.

HALL

I've been trying to think, ~~Miss Jones~~, where it was I saw you last - and - I know now - it was in Pittsburg at the Pitt Theatre in -

ZANONI

"Easy to Love" -- a lousy play!

MRS. COLEMAN

Miss Jones, do you get all your clothes at Bergoff-Goodman?

ZANONI

Nearly all, ^{but} of them.

MRS. COLEMAN

Well, I'd just give anything for a dress as stunning as that last act gown of yours!

BILLY COLEMAN

~~I believe you, Rita. Only I'd do the giving!~~ You'd give?

You mean - ^{would} I'd give! It's the woman who pays - but the man that gives! The woman may pay - ~~by~~ check - but the man makes it out!!

MRS. BRADLEY

Please don't think me inquisitive, but I'm always so interested in how famous people got started. How did you happen to go on the stage, Miss Jones?

ZANONI

I didn't "happen". Mother wheeled me on in a baby-carriage ^{and} I've been there ever since! ~~Here or there.~~

MRS. COLEMAN

Oh, I think it would be marvelous to have talent. I'd give anything if I could do something!

ZANONI

~~What about kids? Aren't they enough to keep you busy?~~

You've got kids, haven't you?

MRS. COLEMAN

Oh yes, but -

HALL

(Leaning over to Zanoni)

Look here, cutie, if you ever want a little tip on the market just come to me.

ZANONI

Thanks for the offer - but say, I'd like it a lot better if you could manage that foolish front name of mine? - If that's asking too much, Jones oughtn't to be hard.

HALL

I'm getting called, am I? So you don't care for "cutie"?

ZANONI

No, it's even more common than Jones.

MRS. BRADLEY

Miss Jones, I have often wondered where the name Zanoni came from?

ZANONI

The Bible.

BRADLEY

No wonder you never heard of it, ~~Jen.~~ Rita

MRS. BRADLEY

I suppose you know just the chapter and verse?

ZANONI

But it wasn't Mother's religion that made her choose it. She knew it would look well in electric lights. Only when I insisted on the family name of Jones as well she about died.

CHARLES

(Sincerely)

But Jones is Welsh - and if you go back far enough it's very aristocratic, ~~Mother says~~.

ZANONI

Yes, but, kid, I don't go back ^{That far!} ~~any further than yesterday~~

! MUSIC

(The others are talking and don't listen
to him: the band from inside starts up
a loud jazz piece)

CHARLES

(Timidly)

Shall we? ~~That is - May I have the honor, Miss Jones?~~

ZANONI

Sure, ~~kid~~ - let's go!

MRS. COLEMAN

Oh, Miss Jones, couldn't you just - you know- do a few steps
for us ~~of the Charleston or the Black Bottom?~~

MRS. BRADLEY

~~Love 'em and Leave 'em!~~
The way you did in "Sex Appeal". Please do. Bally didn't see it.

ZANONI

(~~Looks about~~)

~~Well~~, isn't it a little public here?

HALL

That's hot! She's appeared all her life before the public and
now she gets cold feet about a few club guests. Come on, ~~Cute -~~
Miss Jones, do your stuff.

(~~She ignores him and goes ahead~~)

~~That-a-baby!~~

BRADLEY

~~Fine work!~~

MRS. BRADLEY

~~Isn't she marvelous!~~

~~MRS. COLEMAN~~

~~Did you ever see anything so wonderful!~~

BESSIE

~~I'm overcome!~~

Start Back.

(Zanoni + Charlie Exit)

COLEMAN

~~She's a wow all right !~~~~(A crowd of people from other tables have
come around)~~~~(She stops breathless, grabs Charles's hand
and starts for inside club house)~~

ZANONI

~~Come on, kid !~~~~(They go)~~

1st WOMAN

~~Who is she Rita ?~~

MRS. COLEMAN

~~Why it's Zanoni Jones.~~

1st WOMAN

~~No, really ? How thrilling !~~

2nd WOMAN

~~Who is Zanoni Jones ?~~

1st WOMAN

~~Why, don't you know ? She played in -~~~~(They go back to their own tables chattering)~~

HALL ←

~~She sure can Black Bottom. I'll tell the world. Some little
stepper, even though she did bawl me out.~~

MRS. COLEMAN

~~(Whispers to Mrs. Bradley)~~~~No! I'd never guess she was so ordinary from
Disgusting, wasn't it ?
Seeing her on the stage~~

MRS. BRADLEY

~~Pretty suggestive. Never - isn't extraordinary~~

BESSIE

~~What did you say, Rita ?~~

~~(They whisper - the men are talking business.)~~

MRS COLEMAN

(Speaking louder)

But she certainly wears her clothes well.

BESSIE

Yes, but - even they are a little over-done, don't you think?
~~really?~~

MRS. BRADLEY

~~Yes, of course, but what can you expect?~~

~~MRS. COLEMAN~~

~~Of course, if you had ever seen her mother!~~

~~MRS. BRADLEY~~

~~And isn't it odd she doesn't seem at all that way on the stage.~~

MRS. COLEMAN

~~I know: you get none of that at all from front.~~

BESSIE

Who's her boy friend?

MRS. BRADLEY

Why, that's Charlie Price.

BESSIE

Means nothing in my young life.

MRS. BRADLEY

Oh yes - you know the New York Prices - Marion Fields' cousins.

~~grand-~~ BESSIE

Oh - Old Mrs. J.C.'s son. But I thought he went off ~~with some~~
~~older woman~~

MRS. BRADLEY

That was the oldest ~~one~~ ~~one~~ —

BESSIE

~~well,~~ This one seems to be following in brother's footsteps
then.

MRS. COLEMAN

I thought ~~the other~~ ^{he} ran away to sea.

BESSIE

Oh, was that all ?

MRS. BRADLEY

And this seems quite a harmless affair.

BESSIE

You never can tell !

MRS. COLEMAN

She's got ~~him~~ hypnotized. He never leaves her side if he can help it.

MRS. BRADLEY

I should think he would bore her to death - he's so young !

MRS. COLEMAN

^{How could} The Price millions, ~~my dear, would bore no one.~~ ^{bore ANYONE}

BESSIE

What does mother say ?

MRS. COLEMAN

I guess she has plenty to say !

MRS. BRADLEY

What about Harry Boyd ? ~~Hasn't he been hanging around too ?~~

MRS. COLEMAN

Yes - ^{CAN YOU} ~~but you can't~~ imagine a Broadway star ^{being interested in} ~~in going to taking~~ ^{ON} Oceanview hardware merchant ~~very seriously.~~

MRS. BRADLEY

Poor Harry. ~~he'll never be anything but a hardware store-keeper.~~

BESSIE

He's awfully nice -

MRS. COLEMAN

~~Yes it's too bad he hasn't any more ambition.~~

(They nudge each other as a couple go by their table and then they lean over talking sotto voce. The men's voices come out louder)

COLEMAN

How's the "Wild Wave" making out these days, Jim ?

BRADLEY

Pretty good. Her pet-cocks get jammed ~~easily~~ and her exhaust doesn't work the way it should, but I get pretty good speed out of her.

COLEMAN

What do you make it ~~out~~ here ~~is~~ ¹² to Goose Island ? -

BRADLEY

I average about ¹⁵ ~~ten~~ minutes - how about you ?

COLEMAN

I did it in ¹² ~~seven~~ the other day.

HALL

How far is it anyway from the wharf ?

BRADLEY

Just four miles .

COLEMAN

That's fishermen's miles; they told me at the Naval Station
4 - 3/8 miles.

(A short dumpy little woman quite rouged and brightly dressed has come down from porch and is hurriedly looking for someone among the tables. The waiter shows her to Mrs. Bradley's table)

MRS. JONES

Excuse me - but you're Mrs. Bradley, ain't you ? My Zanoni and
The Price boy were here with you - weren't they ?
MRS. BRADLEY

Yes.

MRS. JONES

Well, ^{say} can you tell me where they ^{are} ~~are~~ ^{now} ~~now~~ ? I got an important message for Zanoni.

MRS. BRADLEY

Miss Jones and Mr. Price just went in to dance.

MRS. JONES

They did ? Well, I looked in there already but ^{say -} ~~did~~ Zanoni wear that white dress again tonight ? I ~~guess she did~~ - and I ^{was looking for her green} ~~told her to wear the pink~~. That's why I didn't catch sight of of her. You know, the pink is much more becoming, but she will wear that white thing - she got it at a sale - only \$150. She always pays ^{5.00 for her dresses} ~~5.00 for her dresses~~. Well, I got to find her because it's very important.

MRS. BRADLEY

I can send someone for her, Mrs. Jones. It is Mrs. Jones, isn't it ?

MRS. JONES

Yes. I'm Mrs. Jones. Ophelia Booth Jones, but I'm just known as Zanoni's mother now. Fanny how a kid can make up for everything even for giving up your own career, ~~isn't it~~ ? But then, maybe you ain't got any kids. I ain't acted now since Zanoni got famous.

(Mrs. Bradley rises)

No don't bother sending ^{going after} ~~anyone~~ for her. I'll just go ^{look again} ~~back~~ myself. If it wasn't from Ziegler I wouldn't have come all the way over here - but he'll have a fit if - he's her manager, you know, and I tell her even if he's a kike, she ought to - well, keep on the right side of him ~~anyway~~ and encourage him, within reason, that is - because you never can tell in this profession. Oh, don't ^{keep} ~~stand~~ please. I got to go right along. Thanks so much. Good night to you all. Goodbye.

MUSIC

(The men half rise - looking very bored)

(She bustles back and up on porch)

COLEMAN

Wound up !

BESSIE

Someone ought to find the key ^{to the} and throw it away.

~~HALL~~ Bradley

That kind never run down.

~~HALL~~
~~MRS. COLEMAN~~

What did I tell you about the mother !

BRADLEY

Don't let's waste any more of this good music, Rita. Come along !

(Mrs. Bradley follows him)

HALL

Mrs. Coleman, will you take me on - I don't rate high ^{as a dancer}

MRS. COLEMAN

You look just like the kind of man that dances divinely.

(They go off talking)

COLEMAN

That's the stuff, Hall. Save me from duty by the wife.

BESSIE

(Getting up)

Come on, do your duty by me then.

COLEMAN

Ah ! That's another matter entirely !

(He takes her hand)

(Mrs. Jones went into club by center door. As

Coleman and Bessie get at back they meet Zanon

Charlie coming down steps from porch Left)

Zanoni -
BESSIE

Oh, Miss Jones, your mother *is looking for you -*

ZANONI

Yes, I know - thanks. She only wants to tell me that Ziegler called up. He's my manager and he calls up every night to find out if I've fallen and broken my leg, or if I've ~~gotten~~ married and broken my contract.

(All laugh)

(The others go in center door. Zanoni and Charlie come back to table. He lights her cigarette and his own)

CHARLIE

(Solemnly)
I have a mother, too - ~~who~~ -

ZANONI

Sure, they're all alike, I guess. Only they mean well. *(light cigarette)*

(He has sat down on one side of her. He

suddenly jumps up and changes to other side)

What's the matter? Did you sit on a splinter?

CHARLIE

No, but I was on the wrong side - that is, it was the wrong side ~~for me - for you to see the right side~~ of my profile.

ZANONI

I don't get you.

CHARLIE

You know we all have two sides to our faces - and when I was going on the stage I started to study my profile. -

ZANONI

(Suppressing her amusement)

Well -- well -- *I never heard of such a thing!*

CHARLIE

With you it's different - you don't have to bother because of course yours is just as - as -

(Swallows)

beautiful on one side as the other.

ZANONI

(Razzing him)

No - honest ? You're just kidding !

CHARLIE

Of course I'm not. Only I'd rather watch you full face because - ~~because it's so full - that is I mean -~~
~~I take such an interest in facial expressions and your face is~~
~~the most expressive - why it's so full of expression that - -~~

ZANONI

That's nice - but say - what's this about your going on the stage ? You never told me before.

CHARLIE

(Embarrassed)

Well no, I haven't. I didn't mean to now: that is, I never intended to tell you at all. I've ~~always thought that I wanted to be~~
~~an actor. To be able to make people feel things ! I never met~~
~~a real actress before.~~ ^{But} I think you're the most wonderful person
 I've ever met! - ~~quit~~ -

ZANONI

give cigarette

Yea ? A lot of people say that - only they mean wonderful like a monkey or a giraffe, in a zoo ! But go on - tell me more about these acting ambitions of yours.

CHARLIE

It's awfully good of you to be interested ^{in me} but ~~I'm afraid it will bore you.~~

ZANONI

Cut the modesty stuff and let's have it !

CHARLIE

Well - I've done ~~a~~ few things at College - nothing very important just a few leading parts. I've always wanted to play Hamlet or even Romeo -

ZANONI

(Kidding him)

Even Romeo ?

CHARLIE

(Going on)

But none of the Dramat Club wanted to do Shakespeare. ~~Don't know~~ ^{interested in} why but I got kinda of ~~fond of~~ Shakespeare when I was a kid ~~when I~~

(goes on shyly)

played Juliet ~~once~~ ^{for the} up in an apple-tree, ~~in the~~ balcony you know mother had me in long curls then -

ZANONI

(Fondly)

You must have been a cute kid !

CHARLIE

But when I asked her to cut my curls off so I could play Romeo she cried -

(He goes on reminiscently)

~~and - then when they were cut off we were getting up Julius Ceasar in our garage, I played Marc Antony and after that when I tried to get the fellows to play "Romeo and Juliet" again nobody'd play "Juliet" ! Kids are funny !~~

ZANONI

(Disguising her amusement)

~~Suppose you wouldn't consider playing anything less than a Romeo~~

Must you play ZANONI (~~Cont'd~~)
~~now!~~ ! It ~~must be~~ Romeo ? Nothing ~~less~~ will do ?

CHARLIE

Why no , really I'd play anything if I could. Only, well, you see, I've promised my ~~mother~~ I won't.

ZANONI

How's that ?

CHARLIE

You can't really want to be bored this way - we could dance .

(He starts to get up)

ZANONI

Sit down and tell me.

CHARLIE

Well, it's only that mother had a pretty tough time and - well - I'm the only one she's got now. Dad died a long time ago, and my *she had to disinherit my brother* brother ran away to sea, and mother sort of had to disinherit him for going off like that, so it seemed up to me to stick around and do the way she wants me to as much as I can, and she says it would break her heart if I went on the stage. So I promised her I wouldn't and ~~well~~, that's why she gave me the yacht and after I'm through college we're to travel abroad. But - if ^I could be an actor if I could play Romeo or Hamlet on the real stage I wouldn't want a yacht or traveling - or anything !

ZANONI

Sure. But, Bozo, you'd better stick to your college and yacht, - because Romeos and Hamlets don't grow on every tree. Take it from me. There're enough heart-aches behind the footlights to please a Russian novelist. You don't know the half of it ! The parts people play because they have to eat ! The parts they always want to play and never do !

ZANONI (Cont'd)

No - Kid - I guess your mother's right ~~after all~~.

CHARLIE

But just think, if I were an actor now I might be your leading man ! And someday we might do "Romeo and Juliet" together !

ZANONI

(Goes into peals of laughter)

Sure thing !

CHARLIE

I don't see what you are laughing at !

ZANONI

(Still laughing)

I'd like to see Ziegler's face when I told him I wanted to play
~~Shakespeare~~ "Juliet".

CHARLIE

(Sincerely)

~~You could~~ - You could play anything !

ZANONI

(She pats his shoulder gently and affectionately)

You're a nice kid.

(His mother, Mrs. Price, has come on, close
to them - before they notice her. She has a
short fat girl about 18 years, with her)

MRS. PRICE

Charles !

CHARLIE

(He turns)

Oh, hello, mother.

MRS. PRICE

Charles, I've brought Marguerite.

CHARLIE

Mother, you know Miss Jones.

MRS. PRICE

Good evening, Miss Jones.

ZANONI

Good evening.

CHARLIE

(Who has crossed to Marguerite)

Hello, Mugs, when did you get back ?

MARGUERITE

Just this afternoon.

CHARLIE

Mugs -

(Whispers)

that's Miss Jones, the actress. ~~Miss Zanoni Jones~~. I'll introduce you to her.

(He brings her over to Zanoni)

Miss Jones, may I present my cousin Miss Marguerite Van der Pool.

(They shake hands)

Zanoni - How-do-you-do - MRS. PRICE

(With a hand on Charlie and Mugs)

These two children, Miss Jones, have been playmates since their baby-carriage days. Charles, I know Miss Jones won't mind if you and Marguerite have a dance together -

CHARLIE

But mother -

MRS. PRICE

Marguerite has been away all summer and they have been so anxious to see one another again, that I brought her all the way over here this evening. Trot along, because it's getting late, and have a nice dance, children, and I'll entertain Miss Jones until her

Music

MRS. PRICE (Cont'd)

next partner comes.

CHARLIE

Aw Muck! (Loathe to go)

Come on, Mugs.

(He leads her off)

MRS PRICE

Marguerite is a charming child and just the right age for Charles so I encourage their friendship.

(She goes right on)

You know, Miss Jones, you mustn't let my boy make a nuisance of himself. He's still so immature in many ways that he doesn't realize when he might be in an older person's way.

ZANONI

~~Mrs. Price~~, Aren't you ^{making} putting it on a little ^{strong} thick? I'm nobody's grandmother!

MRS. PRICE

(Goes right on)

I encouraged him to take responsibility, but he isn't even of age yet, it's very good of you to waste so much time on a boy who doesn't even know his mind.

ZANONI

Seems like to me he knows it pretty darn well.

MRS. PRICE

(Obviously changing the subject)

I hope, Miss Jones, you are enjoying your stay in our little summer colony? I've been coming up here to Oceanview ever since Charles was a baby - and although it may seem very quiet -

ZANONI

Sure, it's quiet - that's why I ^{came} ~~like~~ it.

MRS. PRICE

Oh you like the quiet ?

ZANONI

Why not ? When you have lived behind the footlights all your life - you need a little quiet.

MRS. PRICE

I see, Of course it must be very noisy back there.

(Meantime Boyd has come strolling from the Right with Bradley and Coleman. He has seen Zanoni and stopped to light a cigarette from a match on one of the tables. Zanoni has seen him and has told him with her eyes to rescue her)

COLEMAN

Come on Boyd, be a sport and join us in the morning.

BOYD

What time you going to start ?

BRADLEY

We can use my boat. I'll leave it tied at the wharf tonight.

COLEMAN

Fine and dandy, and we ought to start at five o'clock.

BOYD

(Making a face)

Five ! Whew !

BRADLEY

Sun gets up quickly this time of year. The hardware business has made you lazy, Harry. Many a time you ~~use~~ to pull me out of bed of a summer morning.

(They have bowed to the women. Bradley speaks to them from the opposite side)

COLEMAN

(To Mrs. Price and Zanoni)

Now that Harry has taken to courting the girls in the evenings
we can't persuade him to court fish in the morning !

(They all laugh. Bradley most of all)

That's not half bad !

BRADLEY

Let's know before we go, Boyd. This shindig's about over and
old Mossop will have put us out and locked up before you've
made up your mind.

BOYD

I'll make it up now ! If I can find an alarm clock in the house
I'll be there.

BRADLEY

Fine !

COLEMAN

That's the stuff.

(They go ahead - he lingers behind)

(Crossing to Mrs. Price and Zanoni)

BOYD

Good evening, Mrs. Price - *Mrs. Price*

Good evening - ZANONI

Aren't you sort of rash promising to get up at 5 o'clock ?

BOYD

Want to join us ? The fellows would be tickled to death to have
you !

ZANONI

Did you ever hear of an actress getting up before 11 o'clock
unless it was a *sleeper* jump ? *you know*

No thanks! - Actresses never get up before 11 o'clock
Don't you know

MRS. PRICE

Miss Jones, we're very proud of this young man - we've all watched him grow up here and he is doing ^{so} well in the hard-ware business. I've know his mother for many years too. So I'll leave you in good hands. I must see one of the members of my committee for the new awnings. Good night, Miss Jones. Good night, Harry.

(She goes up steps and off - they watch her out)

BOYD

Wonder why the old girl's blowing my horn so hard this evening.

ZANONI

Anything to divert interest from her offspring and his millions. I'm wise.

BOYD

And that mother stuff ^{The reason -} was the bunk too. She's known Ma for twenty years because she's bought eggs from her ^{always} ~~that long~~.

ZANONI

Yea, and she took great pains to tell me that Charlie wasn't of age yet.

BOYD

But when he is of age - oh boy ! His millions will be no joke !

Cutie, they'd be worth waiting for, and I wouldn't blame you if ~~you felt for him~~

ZANONI

Wouldn't you just ! You certainly can talk funny. I'm not looking out for anybody's millions. I can make my own thousands, thank you. ^{you're both} ~~she's~~ all wet.

BOYD

Oh I am - am I ? Say -

But say, can't you dish the kid tonight and let me take you home ?

(X)

1.

Letter II - Scene 2.

You're cockeyed again. Hector.

I certainly am not! See - how

straight I can walk. — ?! —

Well sit down here over here —

I'd prefer to stand right here —

Now you see you are cockeyed again
Can't you?

I moved all I'm going to — a fellow
who had just moved himself. Hector
doesn't have to move to prove he's not

cockeyed —

Here —

Yes. I've just kicked a man down —

(He shakes a chair under him - Hector)

For heaven's sake, who? —

Oh that fellow who plays around
about

Edmond. The young man. Comedian.

He did not have
 the same name as the
 man who was
 the same name as the
 man who was

I'd be acting now if they wrote me
 a part! - You have made me
 tired. If you might have given
 the audience how to at least have
 a part!

Notes for

7 more

ZANONI

(Pleasantly)

^{particular}
Any reason why I should ?

BOYD

^{What}
~~No reason, I guess: Only I haven't seen you all day and -~~

(Pause)

But of course - I haven't ~~got~~ millions. X C.

ZANONI

~~Just for that remark you don't deserve to take me home.~~ ^{good}
^{Smack}

BOYD

~~Well, I haven't even got the thousands that I ought to have to -~~

ZANONI

To what ?

BOYD

Oh, golly, you know what I mean !

ZANONI

No, I don't. Why should I, when you talk in riddles like that.
^{I'm the beautiful but dumb type, now aren't I?}
(She looks up at him flirtingly)

BOYD

^{You're dumb all right! Can't you even be serious?}
~~Oh, Zanoni, you devil you ! Sometimes I can hardly resist just~~
~~planting eight long kisses on those lips of yours. Could you~~
~~stand that many all at once ?~~

ZANONI

~~Try me.~~

(He looks at her for a second, then turns away)

^{What}
~~That was a wash-out ! You promised eight.~~

BOYD

~~Times I wonder if nothing is ever serious to you ?~~

ZANONI

~~Sometimes I wonder if you can't laugh at anything except the "Funnies!"~~

~~BOYD~~~~But Zanoni, the summer is almost over and --~~~~ZANONI~~~~And you're getting to be an old man of twenty-^{nine} and a half --~~~~BOYD~~~~I'll never be able to catch up with you --~~~~ZANONI;~~~~ZANONI~~~~Thank you for nothing. I'm only twenty-^{eight} privately - ~~is to~~ 20 publicly. ^{Not if I can help it!} But what is on your mind? -~~~~BOYD~~

^{Oh nothing much - but - Well -}
~~I don't mean in age. You know how I mean. I'll always just be a country store keeper. Had chances to go to New York but I liked it here too well, could hunt and fish all I wanted. Had a chance to go to college too - but I didn't take it. Went to work instead~~
^{I've}~~worked pretty hard too. I'll have a couple of branch stores soon in another town. Regular chain! I won't do so badly! But I'll always be a country store keeper at heart, I guess.~~

~~ZANONI~~~~(Fondly)~~~~And I wouldn't care for you if you were different.~~~~BOYD~~~~(Laughingly)~~~~Yes - but you couldn't care for me very much as I am?~~~~ZANONI~~~~(Looking away meaningly)~~~~Oh - I don't know?!~~

~~(Boyd starts to believe she means it - then decides she can't.~~

~~BOYD~~

^{I know, Well enough -}
~~(Obviously changing the subject)~~

~~By the way, were those eggs mother sent O.K.?~~

ZANONI

(Coming back to earth)

What have eggs got to do with ~~it~~ —

(She turns away again)

BOYD

(looks away)

Did you get the ~~egg~~ eggs —

ZANONI

Heaven

Hell, yes. And I drove out and thanked your mother and bought some more.

BOYD

(Turns - pleased)

~~You liked them, then?~~ That was a lot of trouble over a few eggs! —

ZANONI

Say, a fresh egg - an egg that is fresh and not just marked fresh is such a novelty - I'll ^{GOING} have to write ~~back~~ to New York and tell ~~all the girls~~ them to put it in head lines - "Famous actress eats fresh egg for first time in fifteen years"

BOYD

~~Honest?~~ Now, go on! —

ZANONI

Well —

When I was a kid I worked with a vaudeville team and they had a place at Freeport, Long Island! When we got in off the road, they used to let Ma and me come and board with 'em - and they had chickens - and I haven't had any fresh eggs since then.

(Boyd laughs)

Did you know that the ambition of every vaudeville couple is to save enough money to buy a little place on Long Island and raise chickens.

BOYD

No - I know?

Strange - it doesn't seem as if —

ZANONI

(Thoughtfully)

I don't know as I blame ~~em~~ either.

BOYD

Zanoni, you couldn't ever be happy living away from the bright lights for long, you know you couldn't.

ZANONI

I guess if you've lived under them since you were three years old they don't seem so bright.

BOYD

You might stand it for a while - for a change - but after home life began to get humdrum ~~you'd~~ -

ZANONI

I never had a home when I was a kid. It would take a long time for it to get humdrum to me.

BOYD

You mean that - honest ?

ZANONI

That's what I do !

BOYD

You mean you could quit it all - just to -

ZANONI

To what ?

(She smiles teasingly)

BOWD

To live in the country and -

ZANONI

(Still teasingly)

And what ?

BOYD

~~Zanoni~~ If I could only believe it ! Go sure ?

ZANONI

~~Believe what?~~ Be sure of what? -

BOYD

Zanoni - could you care enough for me to - to ^{oh -} you know?

ZANONI

(Teasingly)

Sirrah - make yourself clear! Do you mean right by our little Nell?

BOYD

(Very seriously)

~~Zanoni~~ If I ~~ever~~ thought - you would ever consider marrying me - I'd be the happiest man in the world - but how can I ask you when you have three times more money and position than I have?

~~That's what I mean!~~

ZANONI

Well, you don't have to ask me I suppose - but -

(Looking up at him - lovingly)

you can't keep me from considering it?!

BOYD

Zanoni!

(He takes her in his arms and kisses her)

(After kiss)

Zanoni - you mean it?

ZANONI

I said I'd consider it?!

BOYD

(Crestfallen)

Oh! -

ZANONI

Well - you've got to give a girl a little time -

BOYD

(A little bitterly)

Time to weigh his millions against my pennies !

ZANONI

(Stamps her foot and turn away)

Don't be a fool, Harry Boyd, and spoil it all !

BOYD

I'm sorry.

ZANONI

(Taking his hand)

Anyhow - I'll fix it so you can take me home tonight. The kid's got a cousin or something here - he can take her home instead.

BOYD

(With his arm around her - he whispers)

Honey, we'll go back the long way - by the point, the moon'll be up - maybe you'll make up your mind then.

ZANONI

A moon, a boat and a man ! I won't have any mind !

(He sees Mrs. Jones who has been standing on steps during last few speeches)

(He steps in his embrace - Zanoni Turns)

MRS. JONES

(Angry - on her dignity)

Zanoni - I thought you came to dance !

ZANONI⁰

Mom, here's Harry Boyd.

MRS. JONES

(Icily)

Good evening, Mr. Boyd.

BOYD

Howdy-do, Mrs. Jones - I -

(He starts to cross to shake hands - realizes
her coldness - and simply bows)

MRS. JONES

(Has turned to Zanoni)

Zanoni, I been looking all over the place for you - got an
important message - If we could be alone.

BOYD

Certainly - of course, I'll be going.

(He starts to go)

ZANONI

(Stops him)

See you later, Harry. What side of the wharf is your launch on ?

BOYD

The left. I'll be looking out for you.

ZANONI

Atta boy !

(He goes)

(She watches him out - then over to her mother)

Say, for Pete's sake, how do you get that way being so rude to
Harry Boyd !

MRS JONES

My dear, you are mistaken: I was perfectly polite.

ZANONI

Yes. Polite enough to be insulting.

(Imitates her icy tone)

"Good evening Mr. Boyd." Besides you used to call him Harry. ~~You
know very well I won't stand your being rude to my friends~~

MRS. JONES

~~I'll always remember to be polite to Mr. Boyd. But~~ it beats me how you can waste your time on that feller. Why, he's a nobody. And if I thought you were going to make a fool of yourself and fall for a farmer's son, that runs a hardware store - ~~I'd - I'd -~~

ZANONI

It's my affair ^{ISN'T IT?} anyhow, ~~so it don't make any difference what you'd do.~~

MRS. JONES

Well, Of course, if you want to ruin your career, I guess it is your own affair. Only - when I have given up my career and everything to get you where you are, season after season working and slaving with never a thought to myself -

ZANONI

Oh, ^{charges} ~~hell~~ ! Who's going to ruin their career anyway ! Why jump at conclusions, just because -

MRS. JONES

Because people are talking. This very night Mrs. Talley asked me if you and Boyd were engaged.

ZANONI

They talk about Charlie Price and me just as much.

MRS. JONES

That's different.

ZANONI

I don't see why.

MRS. JONES

Well, it is. His mother doesn't sell eggs, and besides his millions might come in handy, so I could understand if -

ZANONI

Gosh, you wouldn't have me rob a cradle, would you ?

MRS. JONES

Nonsense ! He's the same age you are - on the stage ! Besides it makes you seem younger to be seen with young fellows. And get wise to what you could do in the theatre with some of the Price millions ? !

ZANONI

Say, Mom, ain't you ever going to be satisfied with me pulling down a I,000 a week and getting more publicity than Santa Claus ! ?

MRS. JONES

What I ain't never going to be able to understand is your lack of ambition, Zanoni. If it hadn't been for me - -

ZANONI

~~I know~~ - I know all that. We've been over this so many times, besides this ain't the place to discuss all this, anyways. You had a message or something for me, didn't you ? ~~Spill it and -~~ XR

MRS. JONES ← S.F.R.C.

Yes, and it's important. Ziegler didn't phone tonight -

ZANONI

What of it ?

MRS. JONES

It's a bad sign - he may be loosing interest.

ZANONI

Say, he wouldn't have money enough left to back my next show if he spends it all on telephone calls. S.F.R.

MRS. JONES

Well, you weren't exactly - er - encouraging last night when he phoned - did

ZANONI

He doesn't need encouraging !

MRS. JONES

You're entirely too independent with a man who's your manager, Zanoni - now in my days a young star was more responsive - more tactful, ~~at any rate~~.

ZANONI

~~You didn't have managers like Ziegler~~ ! If you were tactful with Ziegler, you'd have to marry him.

MRS. JONES

Zanoni ! How you talk ! But, of course, you might do worse than marry Abe Ziegler, but you better consider Charlie Price, You may not get another chance like him.

ZANONI

Say, Mom, can it !

(As Charlie comes running down the steps, Left, Hall comes out of the door center, a little intoxicated)

CHARLIE

Oh, Miss Jones, can't we - that is I wanted to ask if -

(At the same time Hall speaks)

HALL

Oh there you are ! Cutie - Miss Jones. You promised me this dance and I came all the way out here this evening just to have a dance with the famous Miss Jones and now it's the last dance and you're trying to ditch me.

(Charlie has greeted Mrs. Jones)

CHARLIE

But I thought it was ours, Miss Jones.

you know, you're down mean as good-
Looking as you a daughter - I - You
Too bad I didn't meet you first -
might have had some behavior with you!

ZANONI

(To Charlie)

I don't think it's the last, I'll just finish this with the Big Boy from Wall Street - it's the easiest way to get rid of him.

CHARLIE

(Bowing)

~~Certainly~~ - Anything you say !

ZANONI

(She takes Hall's arm and starts)

Come on, Mr. Wall Street ! Are you a Bear or a Bull ?

HALL

(Stumbling up steps)

I'm a bear - a bear when it comes to the ladies !

(They exit)

CHARLIE

(Watches them out)

It's a crime - there ought to be a law ! A beautiful girl like Miss Jones oughtn't to have to put up with men like Hall ! It's degrading for him even so much as to take her arm !

MRS. JONES

Zanoni can manage him all right !

CHARLIE

I did my best to get here first to head him off.

(The band soon starts to play "Home sweet home.")

MRS. JONES

(With a sudden thought)

Say, there's somebody else you can head off though ! Do you really want to do something to save ^{my daughter from} Zanoni ^{from} ~~from more~~ annoyance ?

CHARLIE

Of course I do !

MRS. JONES

Well, ~~come over here~~ and I'll explain -

(They sit)

You know that fellow, Boyd ?

CHARLIE

Yes.

MRS. JONES

Well - he keeps pestering Zanoní - and she really can't abide him, - ~~only~~ -

CHARLIE

I have noticed he bothers her a good deal and, of course, I didn't think she could really care about him - but -

MRS. JONES

No, but she is so kind-hearted and just now when he asked if he could take her home, she said "yes" because she thought you had your cousin to look after.

CHARLIE

But I've no intentions of letting Mugs butt in on my dates. Mother hadn't any business bringing her over here tonight anyway.

MRS. JONES

But you see, now Harry Boyd thinks he's going to take her - so if you could find him and tell him she had already gone home with me then I can keep her out of the way until he's gone, and then I'll go and let you two come back alone. How is that ?

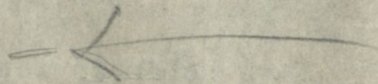
CHARLIE

~~That's fine~~ - Of course I'll find him and tell him !

MRS. JONES

You mustn't ever let Zanoní know about this, though. She don't like me to interfere - but there is times when I just got to - and I knew you'd understand.

Good-night Mrs. Wheeler. — lovely time



④

ACT I & INSERT -

Off Stage -

(Leave her to me) -

Mrs. Bradley

Good night ,Mrs & Price .

Mrs. Price

Good night. If you see my son tell him I'm waiting.

Mrs Bradley

(As she enters / with Jim Bradley and Mrs. Coleman)

Yes, I will.

(As they pass in front of Mrs. Jones)

Mrs. Bradley

Good night ,Mrs. Jones .

Mrs. Jones

Good night .

Mrs. Coleman

That Bessie Carrington's has her nerve ! - Why doesn't she
and Billy come along ?

Mrs. Bradley

They may have gone out the side door. Most do . I just saw
Fred Hall, ^{over there} ~~xxxxxx~~ very tipsey, trying to persuade Miss Jones
to leave ~~xxxxxx~~ that way / with him .

Bradley

Come on, you two.

④

CHARLIE

Of course I understand and I feel honored at your taking me into your confidence.

MRS. JONES

That's the idea.

CHARLIE

I'll go find *him*

(He starts to the steps Left, sees his mother coming, ducks back to other side of Mrs. Jones)
(Whispers)

And Mrs. Jones, it will save a lot of explaining and everything if you would tell my mother that I have already gone. You don't mind, do you? *She's coming now* There ~~she is up there~~. I'll just *hide* wait here in the dark till she goes.

(He points to steps Right)

MRS. JONES

Sure, leave her to me.

(Charlie slides into dark pocket below porch Right.)

The last strains of "Home Sweet Home" are heard)

(During the next scene there are heard voices calling back and forth "Goodbye" and "Good night" etc. The noise of launches starting up and going off and general confusion in the background)

(Mrs. Jones has marched herself up the steps Left and descended upon Mrs. Price, who has just finished saying goodnight to the Bradleys)

MRS JONES

Say, Mrs. Price. I got a message for you from your son. He's a good kid! He asked me to tell you, if I saw you, that he has gone - yes gone on already. And I'm glad of this chance to tell you what a good kid I think he -

MRS. PRICE

Pardon me, but to whom am I talking ?

MRS. JONES

Why, I'm Mrs. Jones. Zanoni Jones' mother. That's all I'm known as now. You might remember me as Ophelia Booth in the old days when you and I were young. I played on the Big Time; sometimes ~~and in light houses near New York and -~~

MRS. PRICE

(In a cold tone)

How interesting ! And you say my son sent word he had gone. Indeed ?

Well, I sincerely trust he has not taken my launch. Thank you so much. Good evening.

(She turns and goes quickly)

(Before Mrs. Jones can get her breath and just as she turns to speak to Charlie, she sees people coming from Right, so she turns and follows Mrs. Price out Left)

(Bessie has come running down the steps, On the other side, followed by Coleman. He catches her at bottom of steps and embraces and kisses her in front of Charlie, whom they do not see and who is too embarrassed to move)

BESSIE

Wretch ! Ruth might see us !

COLEMAN

No, she's gone on with the Bradleys.

BESSIE

(Reaching across to steps Left)

Well hurry up anyhow - or we'll get left and that wouldn't look so good.

COLEMAN

Say, that's an idea !

BESSIE

Come on ! don't be sill ! You have to be an ^{german} ~~evangelist~~ ^{baroness} to get away with a left behind on an deserted island kind of story.

(They go up steps. Before Coleman exits

Boyd meets him at corner on porch Left)

BOYD

Bob, have you seen Miss. Jones ?

COLEMAN

No, I haven't Harry. Sorry.

(He exits)

(Charlie has emerged from the shadows and gets to the bottom of the steps when Boyd stops him)

BOYD

Oh, hello, Charlie. Haven't seen Miss Jones, have you ?

CHARLIE

Well, yes, that is, I have.

BOYD

Whereabouts ?

CHARLIE

She was - er - going home.

BOYD

Going home ? Has she gone already ?

CHARLIE

Yes, she went - she's gone with the Bradleys.

BOYD

Oh ! Are you sure ? Funny - I thought that was Ruth Coleman with them. I only saw her in the distance. But you're certain about Miss Jones ? You saw her get into the launch ?

CHARLIE

Yes.

(Swallows hard)

BOYD

Wonder what her hurry was. She might of let a fellow know anyhow.

CHARLIE

Well, I - that is -

BOYD

Sure. She's double-crossed us both. Well cheer up, Buddie, that's what you have to expect when you play around with the ladies. I saw her with that bird Hall but - oh well -

(He has started)

So long !

(Whistling he goes off Left)

(Charlie wipes his brow and grins to himself
sheepishly, watches Boyd away, starts to go in)
(Zanoni comes out through center door)

ZANONI

Hello Kid ?

(She is chuckling ^{to} ~~at~~ herself. Charlie looks
off left, worried)

Gosh, I had a tough time getting away from that goofy Hall person
he's a riot !

CHARLIE

I wish you had sent for me.

ZANONI

You would have been my big He-Man rescuer, would you ?
Hero stuff ^{and} everything?!

(She laughs again)

Swell ! Only he didn't pull any rough stuff. You'd have laughed

XL-
Exit-

ZANONI (Cont'd)

yourself! He got down on all four and barked like a dog and wouldn't stop until I said he was my pet Pekinese. Imagine ! That great goof !

(She laughs some more)

Oh, by the way, you haven't seen Harry Boyd around here looking for me, have you ?

CHARLIE

(Swallows)

No, - no, I haven't.

ZANONI

I thought I'd better let you off, so you could take your cousin and your mother home, since they'd come all the way over here, so I told Harry ~~that~~ I'd go home in his launch.

CHARLIE

That's funny. Maybe he didn't understand because -

ZANONI

Sure he understood. Cause what ?

CHARLIE

Well, when I did see him a few minutes ago he was starting off in his launch.

ZANONI

^{dickens}
The ~~hell~~ he was !

(She runs past Charlie up onto porch)

You must be mistaken. He was tied up on the left. X - L -

(She looks off, Left, from porch, while Charlie looks uncomfortable) (look L)

Well, I'll be damned ! - ^{RN} His Launch is gone all right. -

(She comes down the steps slowly)

He's a fine gazabo, he is ! That's a funny thing to do - Gee - it's a wonder he couldn't wait five minutes. He couldn't have

ZANONI (Cont'd)

looked for me very hard. The last thing I said to him was -

CHARLIE

Well, I'm here to take you home. ~~Miss Jones~~.

ZANONI

Yes, you're here - that's a great help when - oh, well come along then, let's go. I'll go get my coat and meet you here. But I 'll tell Harry Boyd what I think of him in the morning. How did he know you hadn't gone ~~already~~ *already* X/R

(She is at the center door. She goes in quickly)

CHARLIE

(He looks worried)

I'll get my hat ^{too} and ~~be right back~~.

(He sees she has gone)

~~I don't see why she minded his going to work. Gee, if he tells her -~~

(He talks to himself as he goes up the steps)

(After a pause the lights go out inside club.

After another pause Mossop with a flashlight and a bunch of keys comes around from Right, crosses quickly to center door, locks it and goes off L. whistling. More lights go out at L. Another pause and Zanoni is heard at the center door trying to open it)

ZANONI

Well, what the hell *damn hell*

(She tries again)

Hey Charlie !

(Meanwhile the "put-put" of a launch going away is heard off in the distance)

}- Telephone then! - It won't hurt us
to wait! —

Ch. But there is no telephone it
cost too much to put a cable
out here.

(She rattles the door again and then is heard opening window at left of door over bench just as Charlie comes down steps, Left)

(There is faint moonlight coming from front which shows up their figures)

CHARLIE

(In desperate tone)

Oh, Miss Jones, Miss Jones !

(She opens the window)

ZANONI

For crying out loud -

Who put the lights out, ~~for God's sake~~ ?

X

GLL

CHARLIE

The most terrible thing has happened. The locker-room is locked and I can't get my hat ~~and~~ - - !

ZANONI

(Putting one leg out the window)

Well, it won't kill you to go home without a hat, will it ?

CHARLIE

But, oh, I'm so terribly sorry I wouldn't have this happen f or the world !

ZANONI

What's biting you anyhow ! ?

her help we get out of here

CHARLIE

You see, mother must have taken our launch and the Bradleys that we came with, they've gone - and well - even the caretaker - he seems to have gone, too - because - there's not even a row - boat left !

ZANONI

You mean it honest ?

(Goes off into gales of laughter, as she still straddles the window-sill)

ZANONI (Cont'd)

Oh this is a riot ! What a swell press story this will make.
Actress and Young Millionaire left in lonely island all night !
I can see the headlines now.

(He is standing upon bench)

CHARLIE

Gosh ! I wouldn't have this happen for the world - with you of
all people ! Gee, I'll have to do something -

(He starts to take off coat)

ZANONI

What are you doing ?

CHARLIE

I'm going to swim across and get a boat.

ZANONI

(Grabs him by the shoulder)

Swim across all that four miles of ocean - I'll tell the world
you're not ! Be yourself kid ! What do I care ? It wouldn't hurt
either one of us to sleep here all night. Besides, gosh,
it's not your fault - it's Harry Boyd's, he ^{asked} ~~was supposed~~ to
take me home and he went off without me.

Sleep here?

CHARLIE

(Scared to tell)

Well, he -

ZANONI

No, it's his fault, and I saw him with that Miller girl, the
~~big bum~~ ! *double-crosser* -

CHARLIE

(Almost in tears)

I must do something !

ZANONI

All you can do is to come in here and find a couple of chairs and go to sleep. I'm O.K. right here on this settee.

CHARLIE

Oh, no, no, I won't come inside. I'll lie right out here on this bench -

Sit Bench

ZANONI

Don't be a nut ! You'll catch your death ! And you can't sleep in that moonlight.

CHARLIE

Oh, yes, yes indeed I can. It's warm too. No, I wouldn't think of coming in Miss Jones -

ZANONI

Don't Miss Jones me anymore - and don't call me Zanoni either. I'm sick of being just an electric light sign. Call me Mable !

CHARLIE

Anything you say - only wouldn't you rather, that is, wouldn't you let me call you Juliet, instead ? You see it's so sort of - well, this reminds me in a way of the balcony scene - you up there and me down here and -

ZANONI

Sure, it's the living picture ! Only say, hadn't we better try to get some sleep ?

CHARLIE

(Getting down from bench)

Certainly. ~~Of course~~ Anything you say - only - Miss - er *that is* - Juliet, it ^{looks} perfectly proper, ^{doesn't} isn't it - you in there and me out here? ~~Live read in books that when~~ *It's all right in*

ZANONI

(Her voice from inside)

(Hack)
 Proper? - ~~Hack~~ - Who cares?
 Well! ~~Well! I sure! Go to sleep!~~

(He finally settles down and stretches
 out on bench)

~~Say, kid, it's so proper it's like reading
 a book!~~

charlie

Because I've read in books when the
 hero + heroine get lost -

We got lost ^{ZANONI} all right! - Good night! -
CURTAIN

A C T II

ACT II

PLACE ; The same.

TIME : About 7 o'clock the next morning

When curtain rises Charlie is discovered standing on bench he went to sleep on the night before. He is half leaning into open window and talking loudly in his sleep)

CHARLIE

(Quoting from Shakespeare)

"Tis Juliet, and Juliet is the sun !"

(Zanoni, half asleep, pokes her head out of the window)

ZANONI

What the hell !

CHARLIE

"O blessed, blessed night ! - I am afear'd
Being in night - all ~~this~~ ^{this} is but a dream!"

ZANONI

Say, what's up ? Are you cuckoo - ? Or - am I ?

(She shakes him)

Here, wake up ! You give me the heebiejeebies !

CHARLIE

(Half wake - rubbing his eyes)

Where - how - who am I ?

ZANONI

^{Heaven}
God only knows if you don't !

(Feeling his face and hands)

ZANONI (Cont'd)

Gee, kid, you're half frozen ! Come on - climb in here - get out of that dampness or you'll have pneumonia ! I shouldn' t have let you be such a fool.

(As he clambers in)

That's O.K.

(Still half asleep he slips down beside her on the settee)

There, now - we can keep each other warm.

(She puts her arm around him. Their heads are just visible above the window sill)

(After a pause the caretaker of night before comes from left - he unlocks center door - not noticing two in window and goes on across and around corner of house. Off right - he half talks and mumbles to himself. After another pause the three men come on, Boyd, first - Bradley and Coleman after, talking - they cross to right)

BRADLEY

We can get some gasoline from Mossop -

~~COLEMAN~~ Boyd

He doesn't stay here all night, does he ?

BRADLEY

No - but I saw his boat tied up at the wharf -

COLEMAN

It's a good thing we got this far.

BOYD

Well, we could have rowed those four miles, ~~but~~ -

COLEMAN

Sure - but why row ?

BRADLEY

~~Sure ! What's the use when -~~

(Charlie has started again on the balcony
scene - again reciting in his sleep)

(He mumbles two lines)

CHARLIE

"He jests at scars that never felt
a wound

But soft - what light on yonder window breaks - etc.

(Gets louder on)

Arise fair sun - and kill the envious moon !"

(Bradley has stopped, listens, pulls Coleman
by the sleeve - as he turns sees figures -
then tip-toe back to front of window. Coleman
follows him - and Boyd turns to see what they
are doing - he comes back slowly)

(As Charlie gets louder)

CHARLIE

"Oh that I were a glove upon that hand that I might touch
that cheek !"

(Charlie wakes himself up, turns quickly)

Where am I ?

(He looks out window into the upturned faces
of the three men)

(They burst into laughter)

(Charlie rubs his eyes - looks at them again -
he looks down at Zanoni then leans out of
window further

Say - for the love of Pete - get me a boat - any kind of a
something. We've been stuck here all night.

(They all laugh again)

BRADLEY

You have - have you ?

COLEMAN

Charlie Price, you're a fast worker !

CHARLIE

Fast worker ?

COLEMAN

What will Mama say ? Oh boy !

(Whispers)

Who's the lady, anyway ?

CHARLIE

(Haughtily)

It's none of your business !

COLEMAN

I guess it's not hard to guess, eh Harry ?

(Harry turns away)

Ha ha ! We know all about that getting left business !

BRADLEY

As soon as we get some gasoline - you can come on along back with us -

CHARLIE

(To Coleman)

Well - we did get left ! Everybody went off - we came with you

~~and~~ Jim Bradley - and mother took our launch ~~and~~ -

BRADLEY

We looked for you last night Charlie - thought you two had gone on. Our boat's full of mackerel now but if you and the lady don't mind the smell - that boat'll hold five won't it Harry ?

CLIMB out Window

CHARLIE

~~The caretaker went before I realized -~~

COLEMAN

(Still chucking)

~~That's a good alibi - but -~~

BOYD

Count me out - Mossop'll get me ashore.

BRADLEY

(To Charlie)

If you'll wake the lady - we'll get the gas and -

BOYD

(Bitterly)

Oh, no, don't wake her. Actresses never get up before ^{noon} ~~eleven~~!

ZANONI

(Turns quickly - pokes head out of window)

The lady is awake, thanks ! But she wouldn't think of going in your smelly old mackerelly boat - not if she was stranded on this damned Island for life ! Of course you're not a lot of high-hat gazabos to go off and leave folks stranded ! And of course ~~we fixed it so we could stay out here and sleep on a hard bench in our evening clothes - with no covers - and freeze to death all night ! That's our idea of a big time !~~ But - go on - get your gasoline - and go to ^{hell} ~~hell~~ as far as I'm concerned !

COLEMAN

Methinks the lady doth protest too much !

BRADLEY

That kind of settles it !

(Turns)

I'll send a launch back from the wharf - Charlie

(Bradley starts off - rifht - Boyd follows)

CHARLIE

(Stops Coleman)

Billy

Jim Coleman - I think you'd better - that is - you've got to keep your mouth shut about there looking like anything was wrong -

COLEMAN

Oh, I have, have I ?

CHARLIE

Yes - you have - because - even if you don't believe it - you'd better anyhow because I was in that corner last night hiding from mother when you were kissing Bessie Carrington and I heard everything you said.

COLEMAN

Oh so that's how the land lies - is it -

(Embarrassed)

Well, after all, I suppose ^{if you} can keep quiet, I can.

CHARLIE

Yes - and see that the others do too !

COLEMAN

Bradley won't talk - Harry Boyd won't either I guess - but it will be hard to convince him - ^{under the circumstances}

CHARLIE

He doesn't matter - just as long as he keeps his mouth shut .

Col

(Coleman follows others off.)

(Charlie wipes his brow. Comes to a decision-

So Long

goes through the pantomime under Zanoni's window

of proposing - then he tries to straighten his

suit and smoothen his hair - gets up on bench and

taps on window)

Miss Zanoni !

(Tap)

Juliet !

CHARLIE (Cont'd)

(TAp)

Zanoni !

(Zanoni's voice comes muffled from inside)

ZANONI

Huha ?

CHARLIE

Can I ^{confer} ~~talk~~ with you ?

ZANONI

(As if she had been crying)

It's too early in the morning to ~~talk~~ ^{confer}

CHARLIE

But - I've got to - that is I - want to ask you a question.

ZANONI

What for ?

CHARLIE

It's not just an ordinary question. It's - most unusual - that is - it's most important -

ZANONI

Wait till later.

CHARLIE

You're not crying - are you ?

ZANONI

Why no - of course not - why should I ?

(Puts up window a little)

But I can't even listen in the morning till I've had my coffee.

(Closes window)

CHARLIE

(Starting to climb in)

Zanoni - wait -

(His mother appears at head of stairs on porch)

MRS. PRICE

So - ! THERE you are !

CHARLIE

Hello, mother.

MRS PRICE

There you are !

CHARLIE

Sure - why not ? You went off ^{last night} with the only boat of ours ~~and~~ -

MRS. PRICE

Where have you been all night ?

CHARLIE

Right here ! I'm trying to tell you ! You went off in our boat
 all the others got away before I realized - even old Mossop !
 He's always in such a hurry to lock up ~~and he had come~~ -

MRS. PRICE

A likely tale !

CHARLIE

Now, don't you start that !

(Lightly)

"Truth is stranger than fiction" - ^{isn't it ?} ~~that's all !~~ X

MRS. PRICE

Charles - you can't treat this lightly ! I have been frantic !
 I was about to send out searching parties when that Jones woman
 telephoned asking me for her daughter ! As if I hadn't had
 enough ! She said she had telephoned everybody. Then I became
 suspicious and came over here at once !

CHARLIE

Suspiscious of what ?

MRS. PRICE

Of just what has happened !

CHARLIE

What has happened ? Certainly nothing to be suspicious about ?

MRS. PRICE

It never occurred to me that any son of mine could let himself in for such a plot !

CHARLIE

(Astonished)

Plot ? !

MRS. PRICE

It's quite obvious ! That Jones girl arranged it so you would compromise her and then she could blackmail you !

CHARLIE

(Looking up to window)

Hush Mother ! Hush ! You must be crazy ! And Zanoni's just in there !

Push Mother Left

MRS. PRICE

(Complacently)

It makes no difference. I have a right to say what I think.

CHARLIE

(Still aghast and half whispering)

But mother - you can't honestly think a thing like that. ?

MRS. PRICE

I most certainly can and do !

But Mother (Over to him)

Charlie

My son, I am older than you are. I have lived long enough to know these people !

CHARLIE

(Jerks away)

You may have lived forever - but you don't know Zanoni if you think that's the kind of girl she is ! Good Lord ! Old people with all their suspicions are enough to make everybody want to

Down X

X

be rotten just for spite !

MRS. PRICE

(Dolefully)

You have a lot to learn my son !

CHARLIE

You don't seem to realize that I - that I'm in love with Zanoni - ~~X~~ and I

MRS. PRICE

(Interrupts)

In love - ! My dear boy - you don't know what you're talking about !

You couldn't be in love with a girl like that !

(Has tried to hush his mother for fear
Zanoni will hear)

CHARLIE

(Lowering his voice)

8h--
Couldn't I though ? Well - I am ! And what's more I'm going to ask
Miss Jones to marry me !

MRS. PRICE

(Drawing herself up)

Well, Charles, I cannot have the name of Price polluted ! Nor will
I have my millions entrapped in such a designing scheme ! Never ! I
am not a weak woman - I have disinherited your brother and I can
do the same to you. Automatically - the second you and Miss Jones
become engaged you are disinherited !

CHARLIE

Disinherited ? Golly - I don't mind - that's all right with me - but -

MRS. PRICE

It may be all right with you - but - be sure to make it clear to
Miss Jones, that she would be marrying a pauper instead of a millionaire.

CHARLIE

I suppose you think that will make a lot of difference to her ?

MRS. PRICE

All the difference in the world !

CHARLIE

~~How can you ever know ?~~ She might not want to marry me ~~anyhow !~~ She knows lots of men. *but she might think she'd have to after 6 months.*

MRS. PRICE

That being the case - why do you suppose she has encouraged you - as she most decidedly has ? !

CHARLIE

Well - couldn't it be that she likes me - a little ?

MRS. PRICE

My dear Charles, it is not a question of affection with a girl of that sort.

CHARLIE

(Flaring up angrily)

What sort ? You don't know a thing about Zanoni ! She's as clean and decent as any girl I know and ^I would have asked her to marry me long ago - if I'd thought she'd have had me ! Now I have to tell her I'm broke but that I want her to marry me because I've compromised her ! That sounds swell - doesn't it ?

Alfred - come back

with gasoline can etc.
Janoni & Hooper -

MRS. PRICE

Charles you aren't obliged to ask her. She can be bought off. I'm willing to do that. You have an absurdly youthful sense of honour that is unnecessary in a case like this -

(Goes over to him)

Oh my son - be sensible - let your mother manage this, - I will ~~arrange~~

CHARLES

No !

ZANONI

(Opens door quickly - talking as she goes)

Mom's coming ! And say, it looks like she's got a pot of coffee with her !

(Sees Mrs. Price)

Oh ! Good morning Mrs. Price !

(Mrs. Price nods coldly)

(Almost immediately Mrs. Jones voice is heard off stage)

MRS. JONES

(Off stage)

Zanoni ! Where are you ?

(She enters coming down steps Left)

Ye gods
~~My God~~ ! I'm a wreck ! I've been up half the night !

(Zanoni starts to speak - She goes on turning to Charles)

Sir - what do you mean by keeping my daughter out all night ?

(Charlie starts to speak - she sweeps over to Mrs Price)

Couldn't you have done something about this ?

(Mrs. Price turns away - Mrs. Jones goes right on)

W.C.

Walter to C.

*Zanoni
Reach
for
Coffee*

Turn to Mrs P —

~~Turn~~
To
Mrs P.

MRS. JONES (Cont'd)

Imagine my feelings ! Why I haven't slept a wink - had my false hair off !
(To Zanoni)

My God, Zanoni, what were you trying to do - pull a publicity stunt ? *TURN*

I've been in hysterics - couldn't eat a bite of breakfast ! I just
sates and sausage at that place at the wharf ! Those fishing *TURN*
men found me there in a state of collapse and told me you were
safe. I grabbed the coffee pot - I knew no matter what had happened
to Zanoni -

(With a look at Charles)

she would want her coffee ! Here !

(She thrusts coffee-pot and two old
cups at Zanoni) (To Mrs. Price)

They're a swell looking pair, ain't they, Mrs. Price ? What those
men must be thinking ! And what the whole town won't be saying
in nobody's business !

ZANONI

The whole town needn't know !

MRS. JONES

Do you think I could stay home and wring my hands in silence ?

With my only child either kidnapped or drowned or stranded - or
Heavens - God knows what ? !

(Starts to weep)

I expected to see you both washed ashore by every wave !

ZANONI

(Over to her)

Now Mom - since we weren't - why worry -

MRS. JONES

I know - but - that boy has compromised your good name, ~~and~~

ZANONI

Don't be sill - Mom !

Hall

appears

MRS. PRICE

(To Charlie who doesn't listen to her)

Just as I thought !

CHARLIE

(Over to Mrs. Jones)

But - Mrs. Jones - I -

MRS. PRICE

(Quickly)

Charles I wish to talk to Mrs. Jones !

CHARLIE

No !

you shan't !

ZANONI

(To Charlie)

Mother's cuckoo ! ~~Don't pay any attention to her !~~

MRS. PRICE

(Getting in front of Charles)

Mrs. Jones - I think if you and I -

CHARLIE

(Desperately getting in front of his mother)

Mother, you can't ! You've got to let me speak first !

(Over to Mrs. Jones)

Mrs. Jones, I feel terribly about it all. You see I forgot we came with the Bradleys and then mother took our boat -

MRS. JONES

What good is it being a millionaire ?

ZANONI

you figures ~~had~~ ought to have bribed ^{*somebody to drain*} ~~the~~ ~~lord~~ ~~to~~ ~~draw~~ up the oceans so we could walk home !

CHARLIE

You see - the caretaker got away and there was no phone -

ZANONI

(Bitterly)

It's all Harry Boyd fault, anyway. He asked to take me home and then went off without me ! He's got his nerve !

(Mrs. Jones and Charlie exchange a glance)

MRS. JONES

The damage is done just the same !

ZANONI

Nonsense ! There's no damage !

MRS. JONES

You won't have a shred of reputation left, that's all !

ZANONI

Rot !

MRS. JONES

I've lived longer than you have ! I know how these society people can talk ! Ain't I right Mrs. Price ?

CHARLIE

But, Mrs. Jones - I am going to -

ZANONI

Shut up, Charlie ! And Ma, you shut up too ! People can say what they like ! If Harry Boyd and those friends of his want to think things, let them ! I don't give a damn ! Only I did like his Mother's fresh eggs !

CHARLIE

But, Zanoni - you must let me finish what I started -

ZANONI

You started something all right !

CHARLIE

(Over to her earnestly)

What I mean is, Zanoni - that I -

X67-R-

X67-R-

MRS. PRICE

(Breaks in)

Be careful Charles !

MRS. JONES

What is it you mean ?

CHARLIE

(Uncomfortable)

Well - I -

MRS. PRICE

I am warning you Charles -

CHARLIE

(Going right on)

Well, Mrs, Jones, I've been trying to ask Zanoni to marry me -
for the last half hour - but she had to have her coffee first -

(Turns to Zanoni)

anyhow - I'm asking you now - Zanoni, before everybody. I never
thought it would be like this - but I mean it just as if I were
saying it the way I ought to ! Won't you - ~~please~~ ? Not because
I have compromised you - but because I -

(Stops embarrassed)

ZANONI

Now, Mom, see what you've done ?

MRS. JONES

Not at all. It is only what I expected. Any gentleman would.

CHARLIE

The only trouble is - that now - well - of course I'll get a
job right away - but -

MRS. JONES

But what ?

CHARLIE

Well - I'm disinherited if we get engaged.

(Mrs. Jones is agast)

MRS. PRICE

(Drawing herself up - majestically)

That is precisely the case !

MRS. JONES

~~My God!~~ I might have known it!

CHARLIE

(Over to Zanoni)

Zanoni, it's awfully embarrassing for me to have it turn out this way - but I can't help it - it's not my money -

ZANONI

Hush kid - don't get scared - I'm not going to marry you !

MRS. PRICE

(Exultantly)

Exactly as I said ! You see Charles, you^r mother was right!

CHARLIE

But - Zanoni ?

ZANONI

Right about what ?

MRS PRICE

(Coming to center)

Miss Jones, I quite understand your wanting to make the most of your Opportunities - but -

ZANONI

Opportunities ?

MRS. PRICE

Yes, but you and your mother didn't realize you had Charles mother to reckon with. I know too well the ways of the world to let my son go unprotected from your sort -

(She goes on quickly)

Come, Charles, Marguerite is waiting for us ! Some day you will

X E
to Ch.

MRS PRICE (Cont'd)

realize how well out of this you are !

(She starts)

ZANONI

Wait a minute !

(To Charlie)

What's all this about, kid ?

CHARLIE

(Looking from one to the other)

I wish I'd never been born!

MRS. JONES

Say, Mrs. Price, what do you mean by that dirty crack at my girl ?

MRS. PRICE

Mrs. Jones, I'm nobody's fool. It is quite obvious to me !

MRS. JONES

What is ?

MRS. PRICE

This was all pre-arranged !

MRS. JONES

What was ?

MRS PRICE

This whole affair !

MRS. JONES

Say - look here - you may be full of society and full of money
but you're full of baloney too !

ZANONI

Mom ! Please !

(She turns quickly to Charlie - speaking firmly)

Kid - what does she mean ?

CHARLIE

I'd rather not tell you.

ZANONI

Come on - spill it !

CHARLIE

(Very uncomfortable)

Well - mother thinks - it's because she has disinherited me that
you won't marry me - but -

(Marguerite bursts onto scene speaking before
she sees anybody)

MARGUERITE

Aunt Mable, Charlie isn't dead is he ?

(Sees others)

Oh - excuse me !

CHARLIE

Of course I am not dead ! What's the trouble with you, Mugs ?

MARGUERITE

Well - you were so long coming so I thought, well, aunt Mable and
I haven't had any breakfast so I didn't see why -

MRS. PRICE

Marguerite, with Charles whole future at stake I could scarcely
remember about your breakfast.

(Turning)

Come Charles - you can feel under no further obligation to Miss.
Jones -

(Turns to others with a great sweep)

It is natural Mrs. Jones, that you should feel a slight pique
since your plans have been thwarted !

ZANONI

(Breaks in)

Just a moment ! You got to listen to me ! You make me damned tired

Down Stage
Turn - Start L
X C
between Ch + Mrs

ZANONI (Cont'd)

with your "thwarted plots and plans" . Sounds like some ol d-time
melodrama ! It would just be funny if it wasn't for the kid !
You don't deserve to have ^a decent son like him ! ~~And I think~~
~~it's a damn good thing if you do disinherit him.~~ You only think
of money - so you imagine that's all anybody else thinks about. - ^{You}
^{Believe} ~~Think~~ I wouldn't marry your son without a penny to his name ?
Well - ~~I'm older than him~~ and I never thought about marrying
him before - but now that there's been so much talk about it -
~~it doesn't seem~~ ~~I don't think it~~ such a bad idea !

(Turns to Charlie)

I've changed my mind kid - I'll take you on !

CHARLIE

You mean ?

ZANONI

Sure I mean it ! You asked me didn't you ? I've always cared
for you - and

(Turns away bitterly thinking of Harry Boyd)

there isn't anybody else.

CHARLIE

Zanoni ! I'll get a job on the stage and we can be married right away !

MRS. JONES

(Over to Mrs. Price)

Now, what of your plots and plans ? ^{Whose} Kind ~~of~~ thwarted, ^{Now ?} ~~ain't~~ they ?

CHARLIE

^{And} Oh Zanoni ! Maybe I can be your leading-man ~~in~~ ^{ina} play too ?

ZANONI

Who knows ?

MRS. PRICE

Charles, you gave me your word never to go on the stage.

CHARLIE

But I'm disinherited now !

MRS. PRICE

Never before has there been anything like this in the Price family !

CHARLIE

I'll change my name, don't worry ! They'd never stand for a name like Price in electric lights !

MRS. PRICE

Electric lights ?

CHARLIE

Sure, when I get to be a star !

MARGUERITE

A real actor ?

MRS. PRICE

Come Marguerite -

(Turns to Charlie)

You'll regret this to your dying day, Charles Standish Price !

MARGUERITE

(Over to Charlie)

What's to become of me if you get married and become an actor ?

CHARLIE

Well Mugs - I don't know - I hadn't thought -

MARGUERITE

But I thought someday that we were going to -

CHARLIE

(Looks away embarrassed)

Well - you might go into a convent !

MARGUERITE

A convent ?

CHARLIE

Well, girls do. The veil is very becoming !

MARGUERITE

But - I'd never be able to see you again !

CHARLIE

I could come and talk to you through the bars !

MARGUERITE

(With horror)

Bars ? !

CHARLIE

(Half whispers)

Say Mugs - let me have a loan till I get a job ?

MARGUERITE

A loan ?

CHARLIE

Yes, get any spare cash now ? A fellow can't be broke on his honeymoon !

MARGUERITE

Honeymoon ? Oh Charles !

(She bursts into tears and hands him her purse)

(Mrs. Price over to Mrs. Jones)

MRS. PRICE

Madame, this is all your doing !

MRS. JONES

(Iratly)

I'd a married the kid myself to get even with you !

(Both are ready to pounce on each other)

(Charles has counted Mugs money)

⊕

CHARLIE

Zanoni - I only have a dollar and eighty three cents - we
can't get married on that ! ?

⊗

ZANONI

No - but we can get some breakfast ! Come on !

(They start out)

C U R T A I N

A C T I I I

A C T III

Time : Three or four months later.
 Scene: Zanoni's dressing room at the Globe Theatre.
 Set : Door right center. Dressing table - back wall
 left center. Screen - Left - Chairs Right and
 Left.

When curtain rises stage is dark. A key is put
 in keyhole - lights are switched on - Zanoni
 and Charlie come in in silence. Charlie throws
 his hat to one side and sits heavily. Zanoni
 takes her hat and coat off and lights a cigarette.

CHARLIE

I asked you to meet me here early because there's something I
 had to tell you -

ZANONI

Fire away !

CHARLIE

Zanoni - you've been wonderful - just wonderful - you'll never
 know what it all has meant to me - but I've got to release you
 from your promise to marry me.

ZANONI

What's up ? Your mother back on the job ?

CHARLIE

Lord no ! But I can't go on this way any longer. Why, my God !
 I can't keep on taking money from you -

ZANONI

It is only a loan. When you counted up the other day it was just
 three or four hundred. Remember ! Why that's not much !

CHARLIE

It's too much, I feel like a cad ! Of course I didn't know it would be so hard to get started - ~~and~~ -

ZANONI

What about that part with the Guild -

CHARLIE

Somebody else got it.

ZANONI

I've never forgiven Ziegler for not letting you play here with me. After you rehearsed so well ~~and everything~~ ! It wasn't as if you were bad - because you weren't. I guess I ought to know !

CHARLIE

I suppose he was right. If it had leaked out that we were to be married it would have been bad ^{for} business.

ZANONI

Boloney ! He was jealous, that was the real trouble ! Why this lousy clothes dummy I've got now that's stewed half the time is far worse for business than three or four husbands ! But that's all past and done for and can't be helped now ! But you've got to stick it out Bozo - you'll make a break soon !

CHARLIE

No - I can't wait any longer. It wouldn't be right. I ~~have~~ got a job today. It'll at least pay for my board and room. It's a shoe clerk.

ZANONI

Shoe clerk ?

CHARLIE

Yes. So you see - I couldn't very well let you be engaged to a shoe clerk - and I can't ask you ^{to wait} until -

(A little desperately)

CHARLIE

Well, until- I don't know what!!

ZANONI

(Over to him)

Look here kid - you mustn't be this way !

CHARLIE

(Trying not to show his emotion)

Good joke on me ! I came to New York to be your leading man
and I'm ending up as a shoe clerk !

ZANONI

You're not the only one ! Plenty of good actors in shoe stores.
And some darned good shoe clerks on the stage !

(Mrs. Jones opens door and bustles in)

MRS. JONES

Hello you two !

Hi - How -
(They greet her)

(Zanoni goes behind screen to put on kimona)

I stopped in front and Ziegler said you were sold out Zanoni -
What's the matter Charlie - didn't you get that part ?

CHARLIE

No - I didn't.

MRS. JONES

You would try to be an actor ! Guess you had better stuck to the
millionaire business after all. I never was sure you were cut
out for the stage.

(Turns to Zanoni who has come out in kimona)

Hasn't half hour been called ? Where's Myrtle ?

ZANONI

I sent her on an errand.

*Come out from
Screen*

Back R.C.

Charlie - Down L.

Good Evening

Sit R.

(Mrs. Jones has taken off her hat and coat
and seated Left - lights a cigarette)

(Zanoni sits at dressing table and is putting
on her make-up all through the next scene)

(There is a knock at the door)

ZANONI

Come in !

(Mac the stage manager appears at door with a box)

Hello Mac !

MAC

A guy just left this at the stage door for you Miss Jones. He
said to handle it kind of easy like - because it was eggs.

MRS. JONES

Eggs ?

MAC

That's what he said.

ZANONI

Thanks - (Takes box of eggs)
(Suspiciously)

What did he look like ?

MAC

Kinda tall and pretty good looking. Pete said he ain't never seen
him before - but I think he said he was coming back after the
show.

ZANONI

Thanks. Oh he did - did he ? - Well, see ? -

(Mac goes)

MRS. JONES

That's a new one ! A stage door Johnnie with eggs !

CHARLIE

Maybe they're golden and there's a goose.

MRS. JONES

There's a new name for a sugar-Daddie !

CHARLIE

Only he'd have to be a gander -

ZANONI

(Has been opening them)

They're not golden anyhow.

(She reads a note) (Her manner has changed)

They're just plain hen's eggs ~~but~~ -

(She looks far off - then hands Charlie the box)

CHARLIE

(He reads the top)

Harry Boyd ! Of all people ! Why eggs ? !

ZANONI

He used to send them last summer - he knew I liked fresh ones !

MRS. JONES

Humph ! A wonder he don't send a tin pail tied up with a bunch of nails. What's he doing in town anyhow ?

ZANONI

(Sarcastically)

Came all the way from Oceanview for a hair cut !

MRS. JONES

He better get the hay out of his hair first ! What business has he got hanging around ~~this stage door~~ ^{here} ? I'd like to know ?

ZANONI

Why he thinks this is the railroad station and he's waiting for his train ~~home~~ ^{home} !

MRS. JONES

Think you're smart don't you ?

Ch. X Back

Turn to
Dressing Table

ZANONI

Smart enough to know he's been out front five times this week already !

CHARLIE

How funny !

ZANONI

(Choking back a sob)

Funny ? Sure ! Life's just one long big laugh !

CHARLIE

(Goes over to her)

Zanoni - what's the matter ?

ZANONI

(Turns away)

Nothing !

MRS. JONES

Leave her alone, Charlie, she has spells.

CHARLIE

Zanoni - you don't mean ?

MRS. JONES

No - she don't mean a thing.

CHARLIE

Zanoni look here, there wasn't anything - well - serious between you and Harry Boyd, was there ?

MRS. JONES

Of course not !

ZANONI

No, nothing serious ! Only matrimony ! He had proposed that night. I was going to say "yes" when we went home together- but -

CHARLIE

(Astounded)

Marry him ? !

X Back
to ?

ZANONI

Yes marry him ! What's so strange about that ! ?

CHARLIE

Good Lord - what have I done !

(He turns away - stunned)

MRS. JONES

Keep your shirt on, kid ! You ain't done nothing !

CHARLIE

(To Mrs. Jones)

~~But you said I~~ *But you remember what you told me! - X R*
~~What have I done~~

ZANONI

~~What?~~ What have you done ?

CHARLIE

Great guns ! I didn't know ! IT's all my fault !

MRS. JONES

Don't go on so ! It was ^{all} for the best.

ZANONI

What is or was ? Say, is this a guessing game ?

(Fifteen minutes has just been called -
 now a quick knock comes at the door)

ZANONI

(Calls)

Come in !

(Mac appears with a frantic look on his face)

MAC

Miss Jones - I hate to disturb you - but what had we better do ?

ZANONI

Do about what, Mac ?

MAC

Ziegler's on his way back - but you'll have to know -

ZANONI

What ? For ^{Potato} ~~God's~~ sake !

MAC

Connally's not here - and can't be found -

MRS. JONES

Oh ~~my God!~~ ^{Good Lord!}

ZANONI

Have you tried the ~~speck-cakes~~? ^{all the Buns?}

MAC

Sure ! Can't even trace him -

MRS. JONES

The lousy ham ! He can't act any way !

ZANONI

(Continues putting on her make-up)

~~Fifteen minutes has just been called - maybe he'll~~

MAC

^{If he ONLY didn't}
~~But he opens the show!~~

^{Here comes Ziegler now}

(Ziegler comes quickly - pushes past Mac)

ZIEGLER

(Waves his arms around frantically)

What is it ? What's the matter ? No leading man ? Why can't

you find him ? Call up his flat ! Get a hold of his boot-legger !

^{Why don't you do -}
~~Do something~~

ZANONI

Pipe down, Ziegler ! Mac's done all that. We'll have to hold the curtain.

ZIEGLER

~~The hell we will~~ - for that drunken bum !

MAC

But he opens the show -

ZANONI

What do you want me to do - "double in brass" ?

ZIEGLER

But the house is packed ! Standing room ! Ain't there no understudy ! Don't I tell you to have an understudy Mac ? This is all your fault !

MAC

Ain't we just opened ? What time have we had for understudy rehearsals ?

ZIEGLER

You're telling me!
~~On my God~~ See if he ^{ain't} coming !

(Mac goes out into hall)

What a calamity ! We just get going - business picking up and -

MAC

(Coming back)

No signs of him !

ZANONI

Listen Ziegler - the kid here can do it !

ZIEGLER

Who ?

ZANONI

Charlie Price -

ZIEGLER

Can he ? How ? Of course he can ! ^{You} He rehearsed didn't he and ^{you} he wasn't so bad ^N either ! Great, ~~what~~ ^{Tha'll fix it!}

(Slaps him on the back)

You remember it don't you ? You can ~~fake~~ ^{fake} what you don't, can't you ? You'll save the show for us, won't you ?

(Charlie looks from Zanoni to Ziegler - dazed)

ZANONI

Sure he will ! Now you get out of here quick and I'll rehearse him while he puts some make-up on !

(All talk at once)

ZIEGLER

You think he can ? Can't he ?

ZANONI

Can the "can't" and get out?
Sure ! Mac tell the orchestra leader to cut his song.

ZIEGLER

But
How about the dances ? He can't dance - ~~On my God!~~

ZANONI

(Pushing him out)

But
~~Yes~~ he can ! Now get out and keep your shirt on !

(Meanwhile Mrs. Jones is patting Charlie
on the back)

Come on, Boys, snap into it!
MRS. JONES

You can do it kid ! You'll be great ! I had to jump in once even on shorter notice than this - I lost my lunch after it was over - but I got through O.K. !

(Charlie looks white and helpless. As the others go, Myrtle, Zanoni's colored maid comes into doorway slowly)

ZANONI

Myrtle, my God, hurry !

MYRTLE

Yas'm.

(She takes her time coming in - and going
Left to hang up coat and hat)

ZANONI

Here kid !

Next Page

XR

(Zanoni starts to shove Charlie in chair
where the box on eggs has been put. Mrs
Jones sees eggs)

MRS JONES

(With a loud scream)

The eggs !

(She rescues them - The others pay no attention)

ZANONI

Kid, there's some grease and powder -

MRS. JONES

I'll make him up, Charlie here - ~~SOMEONE~~

(She tries to hand the eggs to somebody - nobody
pays any attention to her - even the maid is
busy getting Zanoni's dress and slippers etc.)

ZANONI

There isn't time - he can slap it on himself quicker !

(Mrs. Jones puts eggs on another chair and
sits on third)

Myrtle my dress - quick ! Back here !

(She goes back of screen)

Now, kid, after the opening chorus you land on the stage in
the glider and someone says - "Did you have a good ride ?"

CHARLIE

(As he puts on make-up)

"I wasn't riding - I was gliding ! Where is Maribel ?"

ZANONI

(Quoting lines)

"She went to the landing field."

CHARLIE

"And I landed in her field !"

MRS. JONES

You got to say "in her field" or you won't get a laugh !

ZANONI

Now, Mom ! Next comes your dance "the Glider step" Can you remember any of it ?

(Charlie gets up still in a daze - Zanoni hums)

(He starts to whistle the time as he dances)

MRS. JONES

(In consternation)

~~My God !~~

Great grief!

CHARLIE

(Stopping)

What's the matter ?

MRS. JONES

You were whistling in the dressing-room !

ZANONI

Supposed to be bad luck to whistle in a dressing room kid, but there ain't nothing in it !

MRS. JONES

Ain't there ? Why the night your father died - !

ZANONI

Shut up Mom ! Go on kid !

(She hums the time again - he tries to do some steps)

MRS. JONES

That's ~~humbly~~ rotten!

(She jumps up)

Here, ^{like} ~~take~~ this !

(She tries to do a step and trip over chair and nearly sits on eggs - Charlie rescues them and hands them to her)

3-Sing-

ch-whistle-

Mrs. J - sits -

Mrs. J - Rise

MRS. JONES

(Sitting holds eggs in lap)

^R
Damn that egg-man !

ZANONI

(Coming from behind screen fixing her ^{head} ~~hair~~-dress)Now, go to our scene in the second act. You come in all smiles
I've been crying -

("Quoting)

"I've got the low-down on you ! You lied to me !"

CHARLIE

"Lied to you" ?

ZANONI

Yes, you told me you had been out in that glider when you hadn't
at all - you'd been out with that girl !"

CHARLIE

(Acting desperately)

"But" — I ^{1/2} did that's the trouble —

ZANONI

that's not in the script but no matter! — You say just — But
 "No buts - I don't want you hear me ! I never want to see you
 again ! I hate a liar !" Then I go off crying and you go into
 that "Melancholy Three Step".

(She has looked around at him - he has stopped
 acting and is exchanging a look with Mrs. Jones
 referring to the lie told to Harry Boyd)

Say, what's the matter ! You're not going to give up now !
 are you ?

(Over to him)

Say kid - come on - snap out of it !

MRS JONES

He's all right ! — *(To him quietly) Forget it I told you!*

(Mac's voice - off stage - Overture !

Overture ! He knocks on door)

MAC

Ready Miss Jones - Mr. Price !

ZANONI

Sure !

(She grabs Charlie by the hand)

Come on kid, it's your big chance !

(She opens door - Charlie stops suddenly -

Puts his hand on his stomach and looks
desperately helpless at Zanoni)

ZANONI

(Shakes him by the shoulder)

Here - buck up kid ! I'm counting on you !

CHARLIE

(Pulling himself together)

All right !

(They start out)

MRS. JONES

(Following them)

You're going to be a riot - just see if you ain't !

MAC

(In the hallway)

Go to it kid, we all have our fingers crossed !

(They all go along corridor talking - music
is heard in the distance)

(Curtain slowly descends to denote lapse of time)

After a pause -

~~Curtain comes right up again & everything is as
before - there is different music in distance -
applause and then a general buzz of conversation~~

*Scene
Curtain*

Hall
appears

(At rise of curtain Mrs. Jones is standing in doorway
looking off Left . She beckons to someone .)

Mrs. Jones

Hey ! - Mac !

Mac

(Coming into door-way quickly)

Say - the Kid's gettin' over big ain't he ?

(Say the Kid's gettin' through his last act swell, ain't he ?)

Mrs. Jones

Yes , but never mind the Kid now - what I want is for you to go
tell the Stage-door man if th~~at~~at guy what brought the eggs comes
back to tell him Miss Jones says she's ain't feelin' well
enough to see anyone - get me ?!

Mac

Sure - I'll tell him . -

(Applause off stage)

Mrs. Jones

There's the last act curtain now !

(She rushes out)

Mac

Gosh - hear that applause !

(He rushes out)

(More applause and talking off stage) such as -

Good for you boy ! -

Charlie you were great !

That's the stuff - you're good trouper !

Applause
Begins

Applause
continues

Myrtle is watching off at open door. After another pause - Zanoni and Charlie come into doorway - he is leaning on her - looking very desconsolate

CHARLIE

Oh, wasn't it awful ? Why did I ever try to do it ? - SIT -

ZANONI

But I'm telling you kid, you weren't awful - you were great !
I guess I know

(He slumps into chair)

CHARLIE

You are just saying that to be nice !

ZANONI

Myrtle get that bottle of ~~WINE~~^{WINE} out of my trunk -

(Mrs. Jones comes in quickly)

MRS. JONES

They're applauding yet. You were a riot Charlie ! Just as I said !

CHARLIE

(Sitting with head in hands - looks up helplessly at Zanoni.)

What does she mean "a riot" ?

ZANONI

A hit ! A success ! Like I told you !

CHARLIE

That's nice of her - but -

(Mac comes in quickly - grabs Charlie's hand)

MAC

Kid - put it there ! You saved the show ! You got over big !

CHARLIE

No - you're just being nice - I know I was terrible -

(He has taken drink. He starts almost to cry)

Oh Lord - I never was so scared in all my life ! Oh Golly - I
^{don't want to}
 guess I'll ~~never~~ be an actor after all !

(Ziegler comes in quickly. Takes Charlie
 by the hand)

ZIEGLER

The part is yours boy !

ZANONI

You mean it ?

ZIEGLER

Sure - he can put in his pocket right now !

ZANONI

And you'll fire Connolly for good ?

ZIEGLER

The kid goes on to-morrow regular !

ZANONI

And you'll sign him up for the run of the play ? !

ZIEGLER

Sure !

ZANONI

(Firmly)

At the same salary as Connolly ?

ZIEGLER

(Gives her a look)

Well - I -

ZANONI

The same salary - Ziegler !

Rise

AC
107

ZIEGLER

(Can't say no to her)

Sure !

ZANONI

There, kid - Ziegler's being nice to the tune of 300 bucks a week ! Doesn' t that convince you ?

(It slowly dawns on Charlie)

CHARLIE

You mean it honest ? I can act every night ?

ZANONI

And matines too.

CHARLIE

Just like a real actor ?

ZIEGLER

Well - ain't you ? Naturally ! And get real money too !

MRS. JONES

That ain't so natural !

CHARLIE

(Thinking hard - talks almost ecstatically)

An actor ! On the stage ! Making people laugh ! That's something that makes life worth living ! Think of it Zanoni, your leading man ! Every night to be out there with you !

(Change)

Every night to hear you say you hate a liar .

ZANONI

Don't be goofy - ~~how~~ can that ~~be~~ matter ?

CHARLIE

~~Nothing~~ ~~only~~ It keeps reminding me of something - something that I -

(There is a knock on the door)

Please

Turn L.

Downstage

ZANONI

(Calls)

Come in !

(The door opens - Mrs. Price and Marguerite
are standing there - Marguerite rushes up to
Charlie)

MARGUERITE

Oh - Charlie - you were wonderful ! Just like a real actor ! *YLC*

(Mrs. Price bows to others and comes into room)

CHARLIE

Mugs! - And
Gosh, mother, how did you ^{two} get here ? *XC*

MRS. PRICE

Someone telephoned me that you were to act this evening ! *RC*

MRS. JONES

Well - I figured you'd better come see for yourself what kind
of an actor the kid is.

MRS. PRICE

(Stiffly)

Thank you ! But please don't let us antrude. I only wanted *to say*

MRS JONES

You ain't intruding. Sit right down. *How do you do Mrs Price - RC*

ZANONI

Ziegler meet Mrs. Price - the kid's mother and his cousin *- Y C. -*

(He bows to Marguerite and grasps Mrs. Price
by the hand)

ZIEGLER

Pleased to meet you ! Ain't you proud of your kid ?

MRS. JONES

Yes, now that you have seen him act - ain't you got nothing
to say about it ?

MRS. PRICE

(Still stiff)

I consider Charles gave a most commendable performance - under the circumstances.

MRS JONES

After I used an ice-pick she didn't even crack !

ZANONI

We ought to celebrate this grand occasion - come on - drinks all around, Myrtle !

(Myrtle and Mrs. Jones get cups and glasses
and fill them)

We got to drink Charlie's health ! The new leading man ! A new name on Broadway ! By the way, Charlie, what name will you use ?

CHARLIE

Didn't we think Fenton Barlow would look best in print ?

MRS. PRICE

And what, may I ask, is wrong with your name, Charles ?

MARGUERITE

Yes, Charlie ?

CHARLIE

Thought you wouldn't like it mother !

MRS. PRICE

And why did you think that ?

CHARLIE

Because you said once *that I mustn't*

MRS. PRICE

If I did I have changed my mind, you shall use Charles Standish Price, and next year I shall buy a new play for you. After considerable investigation I find the theatrical business has become quite fashionable !

ZANONI

Three cheers ! ^(Turns to her Mother) Mom, you'll be a social-leader yet !

ZIEGLER

(Rushes over to Mrs. Price and grabs her by the hand)

Say - that's swell ! Put it there Mrs. Price ! The theatre needs folks like you - new blood, ain't it ? I'd be tickled to let you back my next show ! And say - there ain't many kids gets a chance like this - so don't you let them two spoil it all. If they get married now it'll ruin business !

(Turns to Zanoni and Charlie)

If you two wait till the season's over I'll give you an expensive present ! If you do it now - presents is nix !

(Charlie looks at Zanoni)

ZANONI

There's no ~~particular~~ hurry Ziegler - we can wait.

ZIEGLER

You won't be sorry ! I might buy you one of them fancy coffee percolators !

(To Charlie)

It's the least you can do, kid, ain't it ? You ruin my chances with the lady - you wouldn't have the heart to ruin my show too ?

CHARLIE

No - Ziegler -

ZIEGLER

So long then ! Rehearsal tomorrow - contracts - everything !

(To others)

Pleased to meet you, ladies ! You and I'd do great as partners in the ^uprodicing business, Mrs. Price ! So long everybody !

(Turns to Zanoni)

You got your way all right, Zanoni ! But there ain't nothing

ZIEGLER (Cont'd)

new about that *! dearie!*

(He opens door to go - and almost bumps into
man in hall)

BOYD

(To Ziegler)

I was looking for Mr Price -

ZIEGLER

Sure - he's in there -

(Harry Boyd comes into doorway)

BOYD

Excuse me -

(They all turn)

MARGUERITE

Why - it's Harry Boyd !

CHARLIE

(has come forward)

Hello Harry ! Glad to see you !

(They shake hands)

Lots of friends of yours here ! Think you know everybody !

BOYD

(Bows around the circle)

Mrs. Price, *Marguerite*, Mrs. Jones - *XL*

(Zanoni and he look at each other)

ZANONI

(In a husky voice)

Hello Harry !

(After a pause)

Like old home week in Oceanview isn't it ?

*Marguerite -
Hello Harry -*

Boyd

He was at the door Told me you
were too ill to see anyone.

Parson

(Wrote a letter to Mrs. Watson)

36- he did, did he?

Mrs. Jones

(Annoyedly)

fully look at wife!

Parson

What about the other five nights
you were out front?

BOYD

(After a pause) (He turns to others)

Please excuse me for butting in this way - but I was at the show tonight and I wanted to congratulate Charlie -

ZANONI

(Bitterly)

Didn't want to see any of the rest of us, I suppose ~~! That's~~ why you didn't come back the other five nights you were out front ?

BOYD

(Embarrassed)

I didn't know you could see -

ZANONI

Nothing gets by this old trooper ! I've heard ~~them~~ snore and I've watched ~~them~~ walk out on me -

(Turns rather solemnly to Charlie)

Kid - you'll learn you got to keep going no matter what happens.

(She gives Harry a long meaningful look)

CHARLIE

(After pause) (Turns to Harry)

Harry Boyd - it's lucky you came here tonight ! I just found out something - just before I knew I had to go on this evening. Even in all the excitement I couldn't forget it. I'll spill it right now then it'll be off my mind.

MRS. JONES

Kid - keep your shirt on - *girl*

CHARLIE

(Goes right on)

It's got to do with you and Zanoni. You see I never knew before that -

MRS. JONES

(Interrupts again)

You'll spoil everything !

CHARLIE

Well - anyhow - it's all my fault what happened between you two - last summer. That night - that night we got left, Zanoni, - well - I lied. I lied - to both of you. Harry, I told you Zanoni had gone home when I knew she hadn't - and Zanoni, I told you Harry hadn't come looking for you when he had !

MRS. JONES

Now you have done it !

ZANONI

(Slowly to him)

Why did you, kid ?

CHARLIE

(Slowly - not knowing what to say)

I was - I was advised it was for ~~the~~ the best.

ZANONI

(With a look at her mother)

I see.

CHARLIE

(Over to her)

Zanoni - I didn't know how you felt - honestly - I didn't realize until tonight - what it meant to you ! Oh, I know that doesn't excuse me ! I know too - everyone hates a liar !

(He turns away)

BOYD

Well - Charlie it isn't so bad to lie when you think you ought to - but I ~~acted like a fool the next morning after all that~~ ^{can't say much for the way I acted that morning.} - I was a fool to think anything was wrong. But - well - what can all this matter now that you and Zanoni are -

8/10/8
sunday
my last day
at
the
Hart
or
Hart
Hart

Hart - ? - yes!
She answered - but
no asking - but
just - but
Butter - but
Butter - but
Butter - but

CHARLIE

But we ~~are~~ not ! How can we be, - when ~~she~~ -

ZANONI

Shut up, kid !

(Turning quickly - almost hysterically)

Come on - no need to be so solemn. Fill 'em up again, Myrtle.

This is a grand occasion ! We almost forgot we were celebrating my having a new leading-man !

(Myrtle is filling glasses)

CHARLIE

What good ~~is~~ being leading-man when -

ZANONI

Kid, it wouldn't be right you and me. You know that deep down inside you and anyhow you're going to be too busy acting to care what anything else is all about - ^{And, you see you want to be an actor} I've had my fill of acting - for a while at any rate - ^{I never did!}

(Mrs. Jones snorts)

^{And} I'd like to find out what other things ~~are all about~~ - ^{it's like not acting - just being}

^{Myself all the time!} (with a look at Harry - she goes over to him)

(Under her breath)

Gee, Harry, ^{But I've missed you!} ~~I've missed you like hell!~~

MRS. JONES

Ma Price - it looks like you and me both get left in this deal!

But if you can make the best of the stage - I'll have to make the best of the hardware business ! ^(It's solid anyhow !)

(Harry ^{takes} Zanon in his arms)

~~Author's note~~ CURTAIN

(The slight amount of drinking in this act could be cut out. No one is supposed to become intoxicated.)